

[data], and outputs the analog audio [data] to an output apparatus; an external recording circuit section 18, which records compressed digital audio [data] stored in the RAM 16 into an external recording medium 18A, reads out compressed digital audio [data] output from the [external] recording medium 18A, and stores the [data] digital audio into the 5 RAM 16.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 as follows (clean copies of the amended claims are presented in Appendix 2).

10 Claim 1. (Once Amended) An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:

an audio input processing section, which receives analog audio data, and converts said analog audio data to digital audio data;

15 a playback/recording processing section having a compression section which compresses said digital audio data [output from said audio input processing section] and stores into a RAM said compressed digital audio data and attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data [into a RAM], and having an expansion section which decompresses compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM based on the attribution data [indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM];

20 an audio output processing section, which receives decompressed digital audio data [output from said playback/recording processing section], converts said decompressed digital audio data to analog audio data, and outputs said analog audio data to an output apparatus;

25 an external recording circuit section, which records compressed digital audio data [stored in said RAM] into an external recording medium, and reads out compressed digital audio data from said external recording medium, and stores said readout data into said RAM.

30 Claim 2. (Once amended) An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a general-purpose interface circuit section, which transfers digital

(f)(3)

audio data and attribution data [indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data] to an external apparatus [connected thereto] from said external recording medium, and which receives digital audio data from said external apparatus and transfers digital audio data and attribution data [indication a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data] to said external recording medium.

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Claim 4. (Once Amended) An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section [comprising] comprises:

- (f)(3) 10*
- a) an encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data,
 - b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,
 - c) an authorization data generation section, which generates authorization data sent to said external apparatus [connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section], and
 - d) an authorization data verification section, which verifies authorization data sent from said external apparatus [connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section].

15 Claim 5. (Once Amended) An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section [comprising] comprises:

- (f)(3) 20*
- a) an encryption section which encrypts digital audio data,
 - b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,
 - c) an authorization data writing section which writes authorization data into digital audio data transferred to said external apparatus [connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section], and
 - d) an authorization data extraction section which extracts authorization data from digital 25 audio data received from said external apparatus [connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section].

REMARKS

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Claims 1-6 are active in the application.